



SCHOOL OF  
THEATRE, DANCE, &  
PERFORMANCE STUDIES



**EXTRAORDINARY  
OPPORTUNITIES  
TO COLLABORATE  
AND INNOVATE**

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**BA IN THEATRE**

**BA IN DANCE**

**MFA IN DANCE**

**MFA IN DESIGN**

**MA IN THEATRE AND  
PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

**PhD IN THEATRE AND  
PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

The University of Maryland School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies offers six degree programs for undergraduates and graduates:

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Dance, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theatre, Master of Arts (MA) in Theatre and Performance Studies, Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Dance, Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Design, and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theatre and Performance Studies.

## OUR VISION

We envision a school that serves as a **national model for collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship** in the performing arts.

## OUR MISSION

The University of Maryland School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance studies **advances and transforms** the research and practice of theatre, dance and performance studies through its **commitment to excellence and innovative education** in the performing arts.

## COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

We believe that **rich and productive learning experiences** are best achieved through a diverse academic community. We define diversity not only in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, and ability, but also in terms of life experiences, research interests, and interdisciplinary curiosity.

## TDPS VALUES

The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies **values the unique power of the performing arts** to address social issues through performance practice and research. We value active discourse, focused discipline, rigorous inquiry and collaborative thinking to creatively express and embrace difference, diversity and identity. We train artist-scholars to be active leaders, who influence and expand the practice and social impact of theatre, dance and performance studies.

## FACILITIES

The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies is located in the **Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center**, one of the largest and best-equipped performing arts venues on any university campus in the nation. It provides a vibrant, collaborative environment, integrating art and craft with scholarship and training. A full season of professional dance, music and theatre performances complements our School performances and productions, bringing to campus internationally renowned artists who conduct masterclasses and participate in residencies.

Located within the same building as the School, the **Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library** is the source for music, theatre, and dance materials that support the teaching, scholarship, and research mission of the University of Maryland. Distinguished by the depth of materials related to the performing arts and its rare and special collections, the library offers access to the information needed to succeed in the classroom or on the stage. Reference librarians curate these resources to their greatest potential for student achievement.



## LOCATION

The University of Maryland School of Theatre Dance and Performance Studies is located in the heart of the Washington, DC metropolitan region and only a half hour from Baltimore and Annapolis. Just a Metro ride away, you can catch all the sights, culture, and nightlife of Washington, DC. TDPS students regularly intern at cultural treasures as part of their educational experience within the School. Our students are offered every advantage to network and expand their research and skills at the nation's most important cultural institutions, including the Folger Shakespeare Theatre and Library, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, the National Archives, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The University of Maryland is home of the Terrapins -- a community of inspiring, involved, and fearless Terps from across the state, country, and around the globe. We are one of the nation's top-ranked public research institutions, offering 90 undergraduate majors across 10 colleges. The University of Maryland is a member of the Big 10 Conference and Big 10 Academic Alliance, providing our students with the vast resources offered by the academic consortium.

The city of College Park is a burgeoning arts corridor that is spearheaded by the College Park City-University Partnership that also features sustainability, transportation, schools, and safety. Over 30 projects, including The Hotel at the University of Maryland, four new academic buildings and new downtown shops, restaurants, and other amenities, are under way. A popular hiker-biker trail runs right through campus and past Lake Artemesia, a great picnicking spot. College Park is also part of the new Purple Line Project, which will bring great Metro access between the university and the Washington, DC metropolitan area.



## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE



With approximately 170 students, the **BA IN THEATRE** program has the tight-knit feel of a small college program with the rich resources of a large university. The intimate size of the program generates collaborative skills and group support among individuals. The BA program fosters frequent workshops with alumni and theatre professionals in a state-of-the-art performing arts facility.

**“Nowhere else would I have experienced such a well-rounded education in theatre.”**

**Evelyn Zilberman, BA Theatre, 2004,  
Vice President of Columbia Artists Theatricals**

### PROGRAM:

- A balanced, liberal arts approach integrates performance, playwriting, production, design, and scholarship.
- Students learn about the history, literature, and theory of theatre while focusing on the cultural diversity that has shaped the creation of theatrical and performative forms around the world.
- Students gain practical training in all areas of theatre, from critical analysis, to design, directing, performance, stage management, and playwriting skills and techniques.
- Students are taught analytical skills and allowed the space to develop their voices as artist-scholars.



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## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DANCE

The **BA IN DANCE** offers students a strong foundation in the core areas of the discipline, as well as experiences in cross-disciplinary fields of study. Coursework is designed to help students become articulate, expressive movers; find their own voice as creative artists; develop the ability to work effectively in a collaborative environment; and grow in their conceptual understanding of dance as an art form in relation to other disciplines.

Foundational sequences in modern dance technique and choreography prepare students for interdisciplinary projects and experiences that engage students in an in-depth exploration of a theme from the perspective of performance, choreography, or theory. Students also select an area



**“During my time at UMD, I found interests I didn’t know existed, and built an incredible network of supportive friends and mentors. Every semester there’s something that sparks a new idea and brings a new experience.”**

**Jonathan Hsu, BA Dance, 2015**



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of emphasis in performance and choreography, dance education, or production.

The dance faculty is composed of distinguished artists, choreographers, and scholars, each one a specialist in their own field. Visiting artists throughout the year make additional contributions to the program through master classes, workshops, seminars, and guest choreography. Students have the opportunity to engage in choreography and performance in informal workshops and in fully mounted concerts both on- and off-campus.



## MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN DANCE



The **MFA IN DANCE** is a 60-credit, three-year, full-time program encompassing choreography, performance, dance technology, scholarly research, and pedagogy. Emphasizing creative work and collaboration with our MFA Design candidates in lighting, set, costume and media/projection design, the program is grounded in rigorous academic study and offers a transformational education to those who are curious, motivated, self-directed and possess a spirit of expansive inquiry and innovation.

Auditions are required and admission is for Fall semester acceptance only.

Opportunities abound in the creation of interdisciplinary projects, presenting choreography in formal and informal settings throughout the three years, performing in guest artist and faculty works, presenting academic work at conferences and symposia, and participating in community-based performances and scholarly events.

The degree culminates with an original choreographed and performed creative project, as well as a written thesis. The third year also includes an off-campus internship with an arts organization or research venue in the Washington, DC area such as the Kennedy Center, Dance Place, Dance Exchange, Dance USA, or the National Dance Education Organization.



The successful MFA in Dance candidate is informed by dance theory as a performing artist and demonstrates the following attributes and values: innovative thinking, agile and skillful movement, articulate advocacy, caring and competent teaching, knowledgeable civic engagement, and responsible collaboration.

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## MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN DESIGN

A pre-professional, terminal degree, the **MFA IN DESIGN** emphasizes the development of specific production-related skills and prepares students to enter the professional theatre and entertainment fields. The highly competitive three-year program offers superior students advanced training and opportunities in costume, lighting, scenic, or projection design. Students earn credit as assistant designers and designers at many of Washington DC's professional theatres, On- and Off-Broadway, and in leading regional theatres.



### PROGRAM:

- Each student designs three to four main season productions during their studies, from among the School's nine main season dance and theatre shows and two Maryland Opera Studio productions per academic year.
- The nation's leading professional designers and directors are invited to offer structured responses to each student's portfolio at an annual juried public portfolio exhibition.
- Students have numerous internship and professional opportunities with more than 75 professional theatres in the Washington DC-Baltimore region.



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# MASTER OF ARTS AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

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The **MA** and **PhD IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES** are degrees that prepare students to use substantive research skills to analyze contemporary issues of theatre and performance. Students may specialize in the history and theory of theatre practice and dramatic literature or in performance studies and ethnography to investigate a broad spectrum of performance traditions.

The program trains students to transcend disciplinary boundaries and pose challenging questions that are pertinent to the field today. Successful theses and dissertations combine in-depth and well-conducted research, analytical writing, and original ideas. The program encourages students to investigate the connections between theatre and its social, political, and historical context, and also offers exciting and diverse opportunities to participate in performance, directing, and dramaturgy. Students emerge from the program with direct experience and a heightened understanding of the integral relationship between artistic practice and rigorous scholarship.

## PROGRAM:

- Our PhD program in Theatre and Performance Studies is ranked in the top 5 in the most recent National Research Council study.
- Our faculty are five leading scholars with national and international reputations that represent great diversity in their areas of specialization:
  - **Theatre History:** Faedra Chatard Carpenter (dramaturgy; African American theatre and performance), Frank Hildy (theatre architecture; digital humanities), Esther Kim Lee (historiography; Asian American theatre and performance).
  - **Performance Studies:** Laurie Frederik (ethnography; Latin American studies; law), James Harding (critical theory; avant-garde performance).
- Our program combines theatre history, dramaturgy, and performance studies so that students receive high-level instruction in how to undertake historical research, dramaturgical analysis and application, and in-depth ethnography on contemporary topics.
- Our graduates have a high job placement rate, both in and out of academia.
- We support student and faculty research around the world. In addition to various regions of the U.S., they have worked in Scotland, Ireland, England, Germany, Austria, Greece, Uganda, South Africa, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, South Korea, Iran, Spain, Mexico, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.



# OPPORTUNITIES

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CREATIVE COLLABORATION AND RESEARCH



The **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CREATIVE COLLABORATION & RESEARCH** (IPCCR) is a new ten-year project funded by a private foundation as part of a ten million dollar initiative for "Defining the Future of the Performing Arts in the 21st Century."

The IPCCR:

- Facilitates the wide range of existing collaborative activities within the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies;
- Provides \$60,000 a year in grant funding to our faculty and graduate students to support such collaborations;
- Manages our Visiting International Scholar/Artist programs;
- Assists our faculty and graduate students with grant proposals and partnership agreements for the continued support of such projects; and
- Helps to connect new collaborative partners.

As scholar-artists we treasure direct live human interaction but we also recognize that, in the 21st century, live interactions can be enhanced with long term collaborations supported by digital communication. To that end, we are funding the creation of four prototype learning environments in order to research best practices for such digitally enhanced collaborations: the World Outreach Classroom; The World Outreach Seminar Room; The World Outreach Theatre and Dance Rehearsal Studio; and The World Outreach Design Studio.

The University of Maryland is committed to making a significant impact on the global community and engaging our students in international opportunities through its Global Maryland initiative. The IPCCR is our most recent step in the development of our commitment to spur collaborations and partnerships throughout the world. Our students are increasingly diverse, questioning, aware, engaged, and globally oriented. We support two-way exchanges, providing research and performance opportunities abroad for our students, while also bringing international artists and scholars to College Park.

Initiatives have included a collaboration with The National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts on a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; performance and workshops in Havana and Cumanayagua, Cuba; performance and teaching residency at Open Look International Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia; participation in a Symposium for Directors/Theatre Makers at La MaMa Umbria International in Italy; research on festivals and masquerades on the

Caribbean island of Montserrat; performance research in India for a play about displacement and migration between India and the United States; theatre development and educational projects in Accra, Ghana and Kampala, Uganda; and development of internship opportunities with the Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London. Our newest initiative explores a collaboration between performing arts and fine arts institutions with the "*The Triumph of Isabella*" Exhibition, A Year-long Exploration of Researching Performance Through Art and Art Through Performance (in conjunction with the Victoria & Albert Museum, London).



## VISITING ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS

The UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, in conjunction with the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities, endeavors to offer co-curricular opportunities, multi-disciplinary experiences and creative inspiration by bringing in extraordinary artists and scholars to enhance the learning experiences of our students through workshops, seminars, masterclasses, and opportunities to perform.

Past artists include playwright David Henry Hwang; and dancer and choreographer Liz Lerman; performance artists Rinde Eckert and Taylor Mac; Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company; Israeli actor, director, and puppeteer Zvi Sahar; Senegalese dancer and choreographer Germaine Acogny; Chilean puppet company Silencio Blanco; dancer Wendy Whelan; composer and lyricist Andrew Lippa; actor Alan Cumming; the Paul Taylor Dance Company; actress, playwright, and professor Anna Deavere Smith; SITI Company; South African dancer, choreographer, and activist Mamela Nyamza; Chicago-based dance theatre company, Lucky Plush Productions; New York-based theatre company, The Civilians; Belarusian underground theatre group Belarus Free Theatre; multidisciplinary artist Paige Henandez; and actor Denis O'Hare.



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